

July 2011 to August 2011

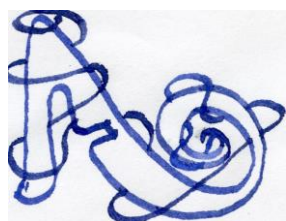
(Volume 35)





July 2011 (Volume 35)





other day another dollar...as the saying goes. Great friends, great family...what more is there in life? Rhetorical questions do not need a reply ok !!

This volume shows a snapshot of our life for a short period and I hope by way of its diversity will give an insight into our on-going life. We make the most of our time and plan ahead to slot the days out and time away into our pretty busy routine. Work makes time away very precious as we always have to plan everything down to the last detail to ensure everything runs as smoothly as possible during our absence.

As always we enjoy the great variety of living in London and more and more is now 'happening'. We keep our eyes open for different things to see and do and are always amazed that we come across different aspects of this great city that we have never seen before. I think that, unlike other cities, London is still an amalgamation of different villages each with its own character and all cheek to jowl pressed up against the next village.

We walk for miles and the café life allows us to stop, enjoy a coffee, and just watch people walking past. More and more markets spring up with really great food and I am inspired to create some myself. We really enjoy this newish side to London and many foods from around the world are introduced to our cuisine in this way.

We got a phone call recently from Tammy to see where we were and it turned out that she was enjoying some street theatre and 'happenings' with Larnie along the Thames and at the same time we were at the opposite end of this Festival enjoying music, outside stage shows and great Street Food. It seems the whole family enjoy London in all its many great facets.





This pub, The Draycott Arms, in Chelsea seems to have got it just right for Lynn and myself. Not great 'pub goers' but the Saturday morning relaxing atmosphere somehow seems to have hit the spot. We really enjoyed the freshly squeezed orange juice and a great breakfast in nice surroundings. It's what living in London is all about.





We walked along the Thames Path around Battersea, close to the heli-port (one of the helicopters can be seen just after take-off on this photo) and the development was in that half-hearted state where a lot of money has been invested but the expensively fitted-out restaurants were closing due to lack of customers.



The side of the river has been sensitively planted with native river planting to attract the wildlife back and is the product of an imaginative mind



These cormorants seemed to have found a great new home



Lynn and I watched for ages as this earthmover seemed to be undertaking an impossible task. He was on the muddy side of the Thames attempting to build a channel evidently to allow piles to be driven into it to become the base of a new mooring similar to the one opposite. However the soft nature of the mud was causing it to slowly slide back into the trench he had just excavated. The more we watched the more futile the whole exercise seemed to be (we even videoed it and determined to return to see if it had been completed).

The expression "simple things etc etc springs to mind....)

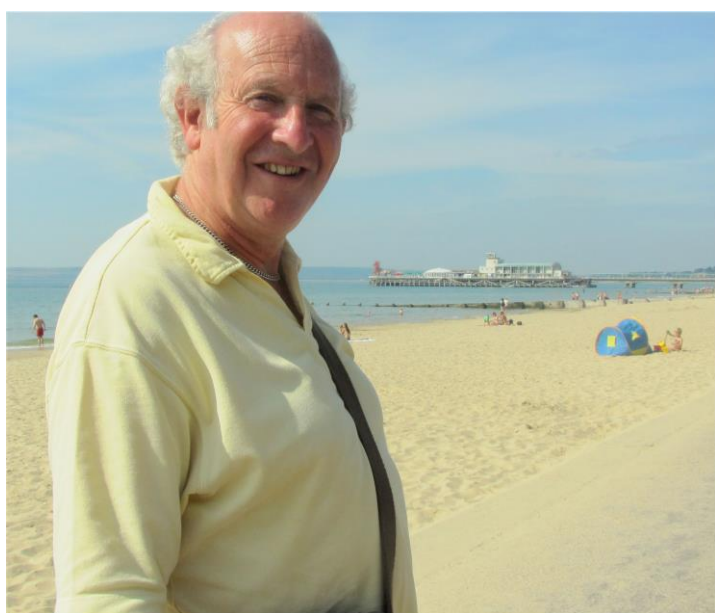




Mum enjoying the delightful gardens at Middleton House in August 2011. They have recently opened these gardens to the public



Taking a train day trip to Bournemouth we chanced on a fantastic hot day and the 7 miles of golden beach was full of families enjoying the great sand and really warm water. We walked for hours and escaped the heat for a beach-side drink.





Alum Chine is a Cliffside garden and the plants enjoyed their own microclimate



We took a boat trip around the coast enjoying the trip and were amazed at the exorbitant prices of these grand mansions at neighbouring Sandbanks which defies belief



Safely secured to the ground this balloon went up a certain height affording the passengers great views over the town and sea...

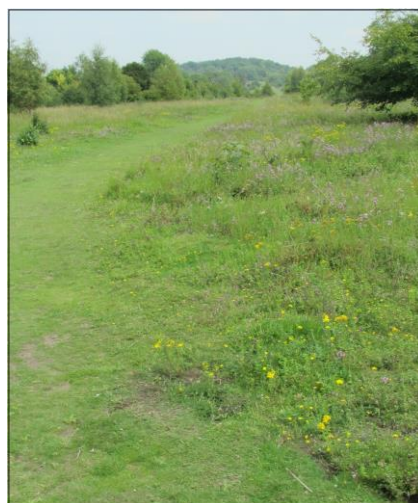


Battersea Power Station is still a site for development. It is constantly sold on and ambitious development plans are expensively displayed and lo and behold it is sold on again. The next potential developer repeats this cycle. I personally think it makes more money being sold on and sold on until the last mug buys it and it is then too expensive to be anything but a white elephant...watch this window.....





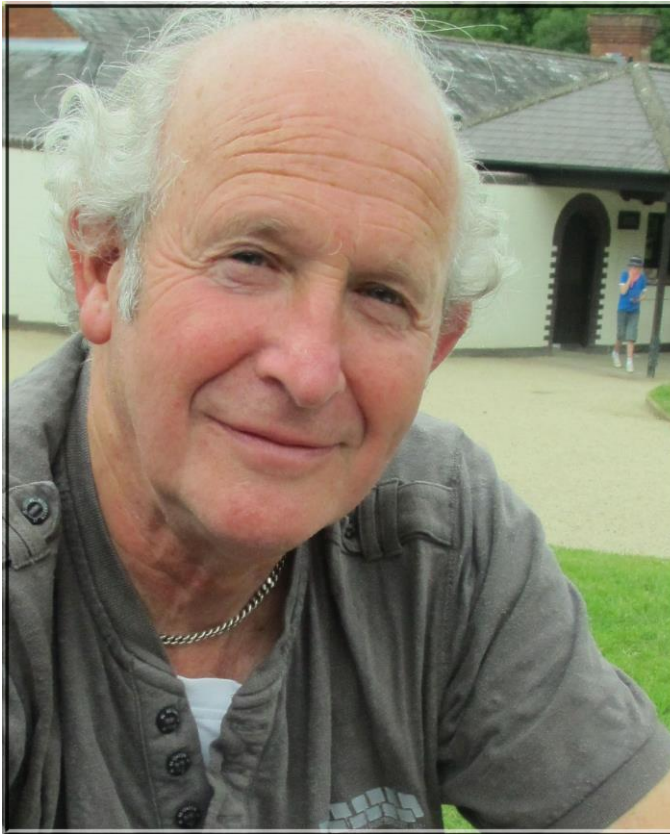
The 'lads' ...yes, please note inverted commas..went for a great walk up Box Hill in Surrey. From the delightful Victorian station which was a total contrast to the bustling Waterloo where we commenced our day the great weather and good company made a really great change from the endless cycle of work...







This tree actually grew inside this tower...but we still had to check it out





Larnie has developed a love of photography...don't know where she gets it from. She disappears with my camera and when I download the images there are loads she has taken and they show a great flair for 'thinking outside the box'. Loads of shots of familiar subjects from unusual angles and I am delighted because I can see the latent possibilities here. Keep it up Larnie and develop these skills.. Here is one she took of herself...





....Where can I park my bike????



A fun weekend spent with Martin and Maxine in August 2011 . I don't think we stopped laughing...

Nottingham Market



These commodity signs in Boots seem to be positioned in an unfortunate proximity...or is it my sense of humour??



Total concentration at the object d'art auction. Maxine scratched her nose and nearly ended up with a whole set of Dinky toys



....."what do you think it's worth??"





A great funfair on the side of the Trent. We were like kids...even to the requisite candyfloss



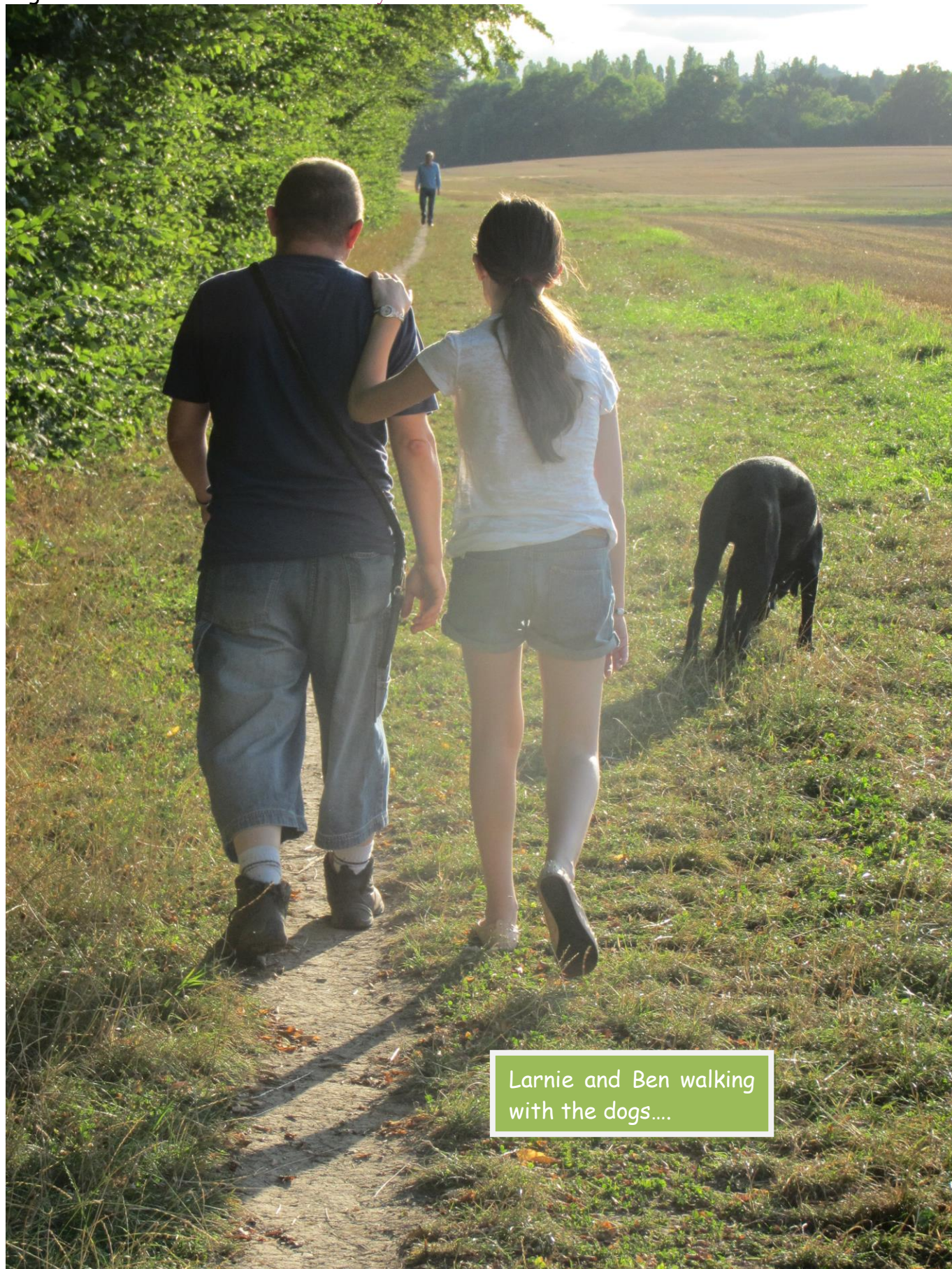
We watched a this really talented duo for ages - 'The Pesky Alligators ' Amazing talent. We all felt they were destined for a great future.



In August Tammy Ben and the kids moved to Trentside so I took these shots...packing cases and all before their planned alterations are put into operation. One soon forgets what things were like originally. It is a great house - a real home and the situation is exceptional. They are all so happy.







Larnie and Ben walking
with the dogs....



We took a day trip to Paris with Larnie on Eurostar from home direct into Paris in under 3 hours..effortless and a great fun day out





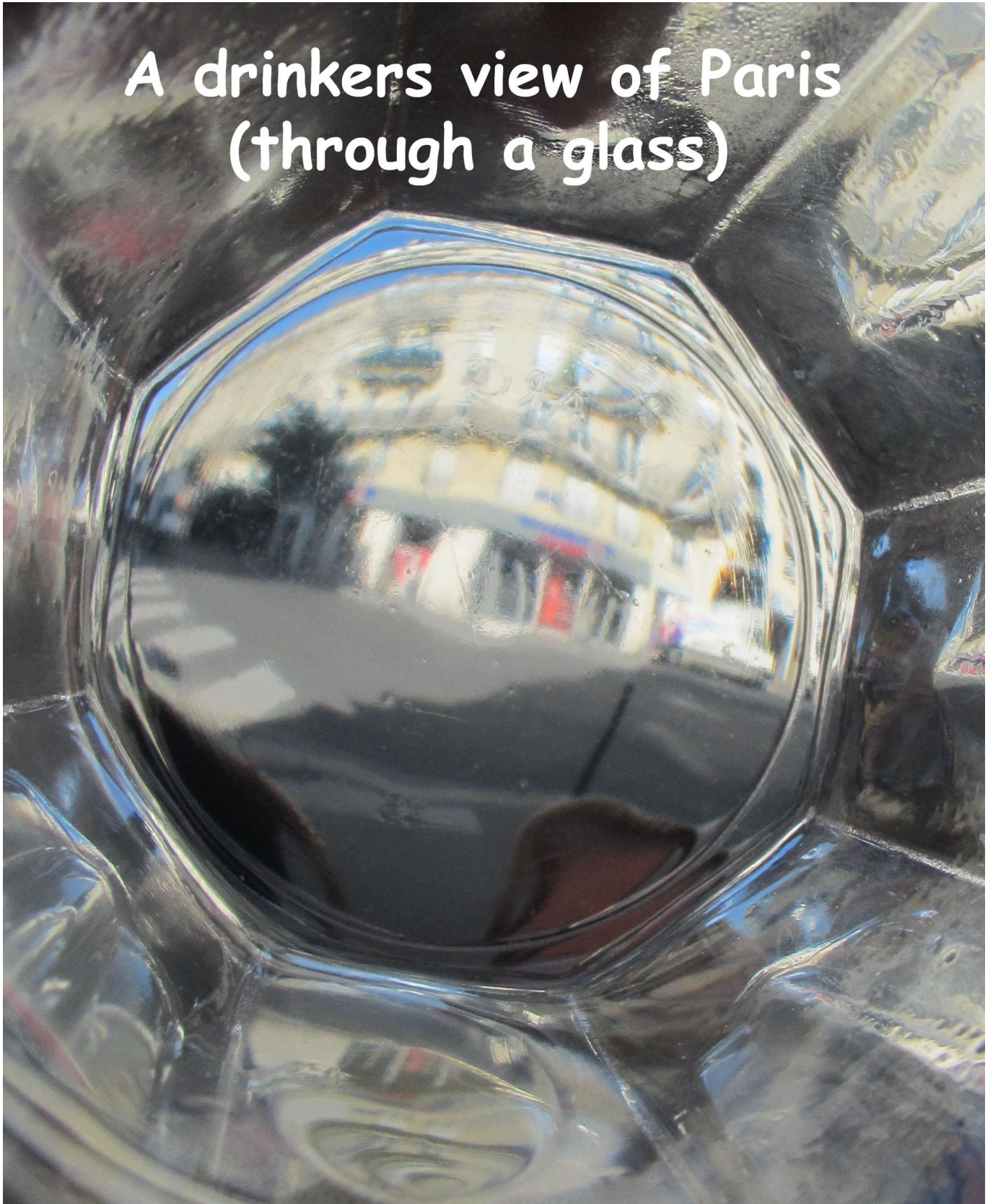
At St.Pancras
international







A drinkers view of Paris (through a glass)







Academy
of Music



The Ritz in Place de Vendôme



School kids in The
Jardin Des Tuileries





The elegant boulevard in
The Place de Vendome



Lunch just off The
Avenue Des Champs
Elysees





The requisite shot
...with The Eiffel
Tower in background

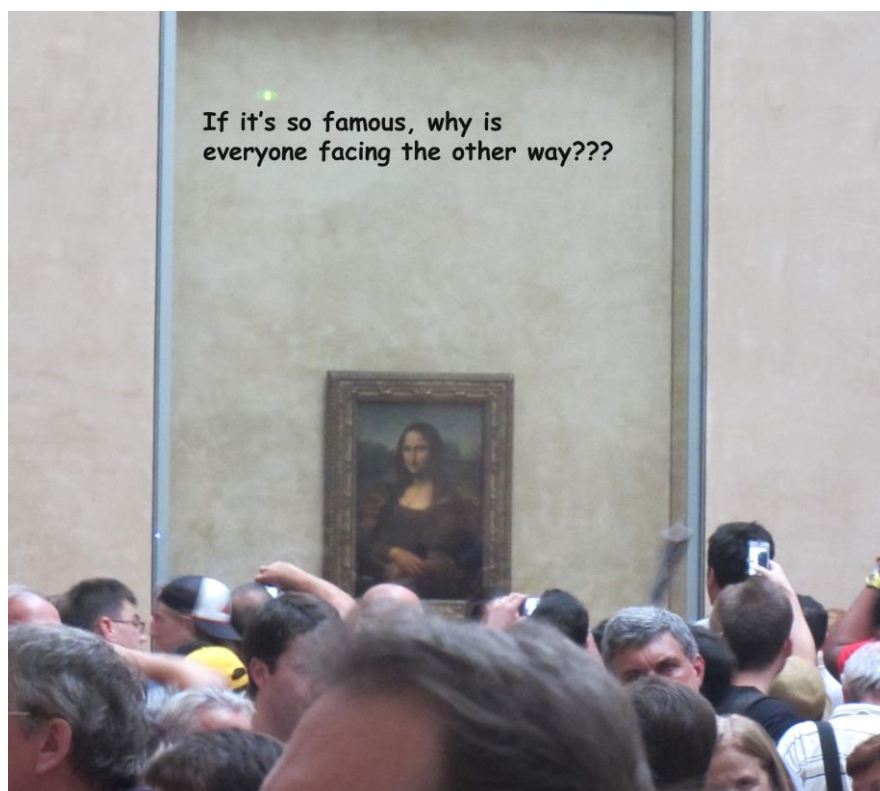






Has the world gone mad ?? yes,
we were there as well !!

MONALISAMADNESS



If it's so famous, why is
everyone facing the other way???





Enigmatic ? or Emporers
new cloths ???









Some of the beautiful things at The Louvre





Bird's eye view





Heaven is when
the eyes close



Paris snapshot - a great day trip







Intriguing burnt out bikes...what happened ???

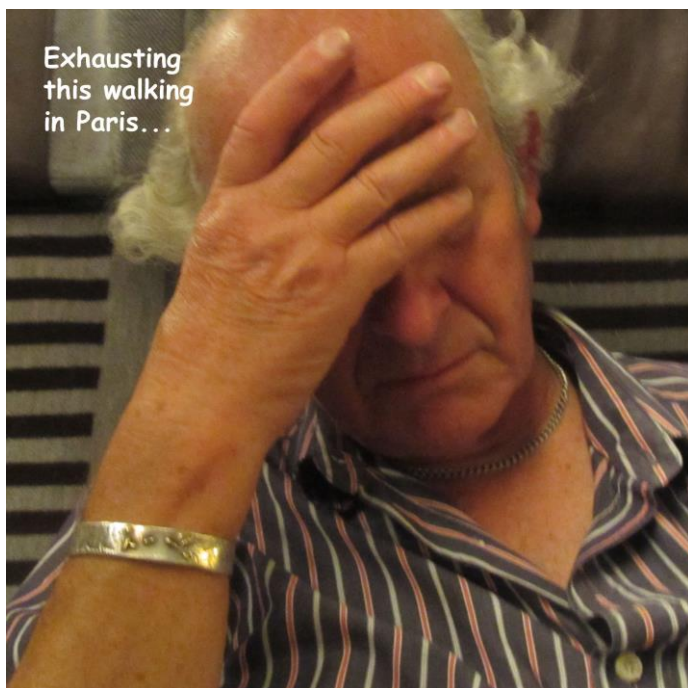


A wonderful painting in a Montmartre gallery

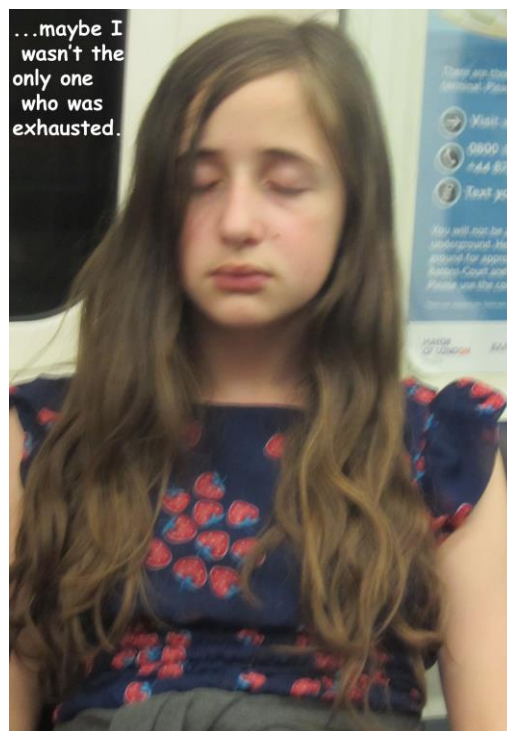




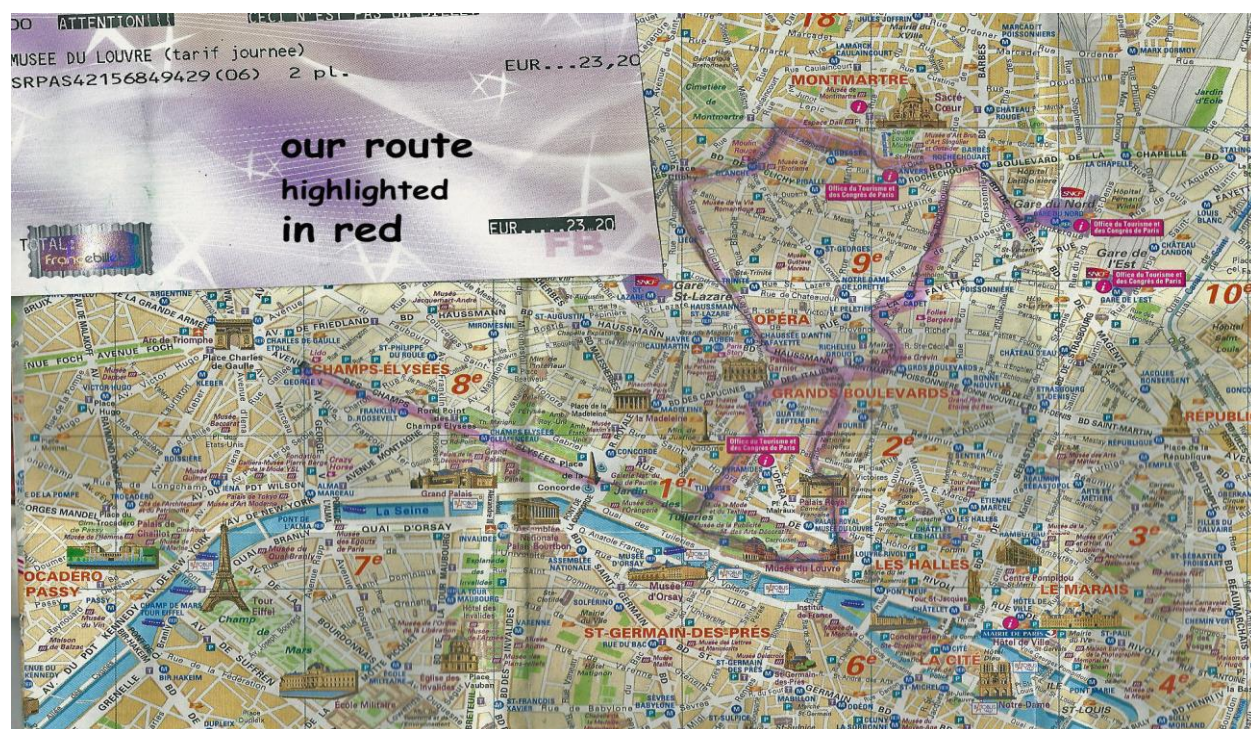
...and on the return journey....



Exhausting
this walking
in Paris...



...maybe I
wasn't the
only one
who was
exhausted.





Tamara & Ben
certainly
get around



The first shot is in Paris and the second in Gothenburg....a fitting end to Volume 35....